

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please delete paragraph [0001] and replace with the following:

[0001] The present invention relates to a circuit interrupting apparatus and, more particularly, to a circuit interrupting apparatus for medium- and high-voltage circuit isolating devices having operations counters and methods of forming and using such circuit interrupting apparatus associated therewith.

Please delete paragraph [0004] and replace with the following:

[0004] To minimize the risks and dangers associated with the opening of such circuit isolating devices, a specially designed portable circuit interrupting apparatus has been developed as described, for example, in U.S. Patent No. 2,816,984 by Lindell titled "Circuit Interrupter Construction" and in U.S. Patent No. 2,816,985 by Lindell titled "Circuit Interrupting Means." This apparatus typically comprises a rod-like terminal which enters the ring-like conducting part of the isolating device and a second terminal which loops about the hook-like conducting part. The interrupting apparatus is mounted at the upper end of an elongated ~~elongate~~ line pole.

Please delete paragraph [0005] and replace with the following:

[0005] In use, the operator initially lifts the apparatus to an elevated position adjacent the isolating device while holding the lower or proximal end of the line pole, and the operator then swings the interrupting apparatus into engagement with the isolating device so as to bring the two terminals of the interrupting apparatus into proper contact with the two conducting parts of the isolating device. The interrupting apparatus of the type described above, and as illustrated and described in the above-referenced patents, should be carefully manipulated during ~~their~~ its initial engagement with the isolating device so that the two terminals properly engage the two conducting parts of the isolating device. This typically requires the hook engaging terminal of the interrupting apparatus to initially engage the hook-like conducting part of the isolating device. The interrupting apparatus is then swung laterally so that the ring engaging terminal of the interrupting apparatus enters the ring-like conducting part of the isolating device.

Please delete paragraph [0007] and replace with the following:

[0007] Often it is desirable to keep track of the number of interrupting apparatus operations, and thus the number of circuit isolating devices serviced, in order to analyze operator productivity or to facilitate maintenance based on the number of operations rather than length of time the interrupting apparatus is in the field. It is, however, difficult to accurately keep track of the number of operations performed by each interrupting apparatus. It has been recognized that an operation counter can be used to count the number of operations. For example, U.S. Patent No. 6,300,585, by Nicolai titled "Operation Counter for a Circuit Interrupter," describes an operation counter used to count the number of operations of a circuit interrupter in order to determine the operating life of the circuit interrupter and to determine a maintenance schedule to be applied to the circuit interrupter. The operation counter is ~~interfaced with and responsive to interruption of the shunt circuit contact with an arc-suppressing member and is positioned adjacent-on~~ or within an exhaust control portion of a circuit interrupter. Applicants have recognized that counters such as that described, however, are prone to excessive wear because part of the counter mechanism is in contact with arc-interrupting components or shunt-interrupting circuits which are subject to the wear and tear or other forms of degradation caused by arcing resulting from the circuit interrupting operation. Applicants therefore also recognized a need for an interrupting apparatus which can count the number of operations performed by each circuit interrupting apparatus that does not require direct interface with shunt-interrupting circuit components. Additionally, there are many circuit interrupting apparatus deployed in the field which do not have an operation counter. Applicants also further recognized a need for an operation counter that can be easily and inexpensively retrofitted to existing circuit interrupting apparatus to provide a count of the number of operations performed by the operator on an isolating circuit device.

Please delete paragraph [00017] and replace with the following:

[00017] A circuit interrupting apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention advantageously can be used for keeping track of the number of circuit interrupting operations of and thus the number of circuit isolating devices serviced. This can help facilitate maintenance based on the number of raw operations or an itemized account of operations based on the amperage interrupted rather than length of time the interrupting apparatus is in the field. Advantageously, in an embodiment of the present invention the operations counter is not exposed to exhaust gases during use and, due to the positioning, can be housed in a durable metal housing to improve durability and lessen the chance of damage to the counter. Advantageously, in embodiments of the present invention, an operations counter cannot be reset to provide for a continuous monitoring of the operations performed throughout the life of the interrupting apparatus. Advantageously, in embodiments of the present invention, an operations counter can be positioned to count each time the tool is reset; thus, it never comes in contact with any internal loadbreak mechanisms.

Please delete paragraph [00028] and replace with the following:

[00028] As illustrated in FIGS. 1-8, embodiments of the present invention advantageously provide a portable circuit interrupting apparatus 32 for use in association with a utility powerline circuit isolating device to expeditiously open the circuit, typically medium and high-voltage isolating device 10 while it is carrying line current. The circuit interrupting apparatus 32 is adapted to be held in the hand of a user and has an operation counter 91 to provide the user a continuous update of the number of circuit interrupting operations performed by the circuit interrupting apparatus 32. The operator initially lifts the circuit interrupting apparatus 32 to an elevated position adjacent the isolating device 10 while holding the lower end of the line pole, and the operator then swings the circuit interrupting apparatus 32 into engagement with the isolating device 10 so as to bring the two terminals of the circuit interrupting apparatus 32 into proper contact with the two conducting parts of the isolating device 10. The hook engaging terminal of the circuit interrupting apparatus 32 engages the hook-like conducting part of the isolating device 10. The circuit interrupting apparatus 32 is then swung laterally so that the ring engaging terminal of the

circuit interrupting apparatus 32 enters the ring-like conducting part of the isolating device 10. Upon then pulling downwardly on the line pole, the operator is able to separate the two conducting parts of the isolating device 10 to open the circuit so that the current then flows through a shunt circuit which is located in the interior of the circuit interrupting apparatus 32. In response to an extension of a sleeve within the main body of the circuit interrupting apparatus 32, the operations counter 91 is automatically incremented.

Please replace paragraph [00048] and replace with the following:

[00048] Continued downward movement of the line pole 63 causes the sleeve 36 to axially extend from the main housing 34 against the biasing force of the spring 38, and by reason of the arcuate movement of the terminal 40, the main housing 34 will pivot away from the connector arm 60 about the axis of the pivot pin 56. Reset plunger 76, positioned to extend through a reset plunger opening 77 in a medial portion of a main body of sleeve 36, slides down the main body outer surface 37 of sleeve 36 during such extension and until reaching reset plunger opening 77. When the sleeve 36 reaches this predetermined extension position, ~~the reset plunger 76~~ the spring 83 extends the reset plunger 76 through reset plunger opening 77, locking sleeve 36 in the extended position and incrementing the operation counter 91, 111. Correspondingly, the shunting circuit 74 is interrupted inside the housing 36 so as to protectively contain the resulting arc.